

# The Bulletin

## 75th Division (Training Support)

Volume XX, Issue X HOUSTON, TEXAS Fall 2002

**Deputy Division Commander** 

## **Colonel Mel Price Retires**

BY MAJOR WAYNE MAROTTO

Colonel Mel Price, Deputy Division Commander 75<sup>th</sup> DIV(TS), retired in July, 2002 after serving his country for thirty years. A jam-packed retirement ceremony was held on August 3, 2002 at the Holiday Inn. Guests included Major General and Mrs. Perry Dalby 75<sup>th</sup> DIV(TS) Commanding General, and Brigadier General and Mrs. Van Kleek, and members of the Price family.

Colonel Price was commissioned from the ROTC at Prairie View A&M as an Infantry Officer and entered Active Duty in January, 1973 as the Training Officer for the Second Basic Training Brigade at Fort Polk, Louisiana. At Fort Polk, in the basic training brigade, he learned from Drill Sergeants how to take care of soldiers. It was then that he learned what the army's most important assets were. "I was taught how to take care of soldiers by the Drill Sergeants at Fort Polk. They were the ones that made me realize that my most important assets were the enlisted and NCO's," Price stated. While at Fort Polk his other assignments included Executive Officer, and Chief Race Relations Officer until December, 1975 and Executive Officer, HHC, 4th Squadron, 12th Calvary, 5th Mechanized Division, Ft. Polk, Louisiana, December 1975 - June 1976.

His most m e m o r a b l e assignment was in Korea as the S3 Air in 1977-78 when he was assigned to the 1/9<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division. He



was in charge of all aviation assets which assisted the Battalion in

performing its tactical missions. "Korea was a tough assignment. It is physically and mentally demanding," Colonel Price said. "We ran PT as long as it was 6 degrees above zero. The wind chill factor could be forty degrees below zero, but we still ran PT. We were straight leg infantry and one time we conducted an exercise in winter. When we moved out, it was snowing so hard you could not see the guy in front of you. I will never forget that."

After leaving Korea, Colonel Price was stationed at Fort Hood, Texas. Throughout the next three years with the 1st CAV he would serve as the Assistant S3 with the 1/5th Mechanized Battalion, the Commander of 2nd Brigade HHC 1/5th Mechanized Battalion, and served as the Personnel Staff Officer of DISCOM. Following his assignment with DISCOM, Price spent the rest of his Active-



## Stand To

### Major General Perry V. Dalby



In our second addition of the 75th Division newsletter I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude and pride that I have for all our soldiers and family members for the tremendous work and sacrifice you all have made in supporting the mission and goals of the Division. This past year has been a busy time for the 75th Division. We were heavily engaged in Noble Eagle 1 and the mobilization of reserve component units to Active Duty in support of Homeland Security Operations and remote Army Materiel Command (AMC) sites security. We did the pre-mobilization training, certification, validation of those units, and took them to these sites and handed them off to their respective site commanders. We are currently engaged in Noble Eagle 2 and the mobilization of the 35th Infantry Division.

In September of this year we had the 75<sup>th</sup> Division Commander's Forum at Fort Riley, Kansas. The commander's forum served as the format to institute our transformation for the future. This coincides with the Chief of Staff of the Army's plans that have engaged the Army in a massive transformation project that changes the techniques, tactics and procedures for the Army.

With all these on-going missions, we will as an organization take some time in December to enjoy family and friends. On Saturday December 14th, we will have a Holiday Ball at Minute Maid Park, and on Sunday we will have family activities, culminating with Christmas lunch and a visit by Santa Claus. With all that is going in the 75th Division, I want to wish the best to all as we enter this Holiday Season.







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Public Affairs NCOIC ........

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#### The Bulletin

The Bulletin is published quarterly in the interest of all personnel of the 75th Division (Training Support). It is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 25-30. It is written, edited and published by the Public Affairs Office 75th Division (Training Support), ATTN: AFRC-EAL-PA, 1850 Old Spanish Trail, Houston, TX 77054-2025 phone (713) 799-7591 Fax: (713)-799-7981. Printing is by offset press with print run of 2200 copies. Editorial views and opinions expressed in the publication are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, Dept. of the Army, or the HQ of the 75th Division (TS). Use of the third personnel pronoun "he" and its forms are used by the Bulletin to include both masculine and feminine gender. Contributions of material are welcome and should be addressed to the Public Affairs Office. The editor reserves the right to edit submitted copy for clarity and propriety. With the exception of copyrighted or syndicated materials and photographs (other than U.S. Army), all materials may be reprinted without permission if appropriate credit is given the author or contributor. The Bulletin also utilizes AFIS and AR News material.

## Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain (COL) Ronald Duncan



## "Looking Inside"

We have moved our household recently and had the experience again of packing and unpacking. As you go through this process of unpacking you find that what the box says does not always represent accurately what's inside. To me, this provided another "lesson of life." The lesson is what we see in people is not always who they really are. How do we insure that our outward appearance matches our inward character and belief system? How do we know that what we have said we believe will hold up under pressure? What values do we hold and believe that we are willing to defend? These are questions for "looking inside."

"Looking Inside" is a good drill periodically for all of us to check ourselves. We are the only ones that can really see what is truly "inside the box." Jesus said, "Where your treasure is there is your heart also." The meaning intended was we act out what we really believe day in and day out. In our turbulent world of unrest, one of the stabilizing forces is persons of integrity and character. Let me encourage you to be a light in our world of darkness. Shine brightly by being true to your self, your beliefs, and your God.

Grace and Peace, CH(COL) Ronald V. Duncan



Continued from page 1

Duty career as the Operations Officer of the 15th AIT Battalion, 4th combat Support Training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. This tour would end his eleven-year career as an Active Duty Officer.

After leaving Active Duty, Price entered the U.S. Army Reserve in 1985 as a Raid Committee Lane Grader and Instructor at Ft. Riley, Kansas. In February, 1987 he transferred to the 75th Division Manuever Area Command (MAC).

His first assignment was as the G4/S4 Controller Group OAF Mobilization Team.

Col Price uses his saber to cut his retirement cake.

It was in the 75<sup>th</sup> MAC where Colonel Price met the most influential Officer in his career. "Colonel Cliff Blackerby was my bona fide mentor. He was the guy who made me realize how critically important it was in being a superior staff officer. He was probably the best staff officer I ever ran across in my thirty year career."

By 1993 he had taken over as the Battalion Commander of the 1/289th IN REGT, 2nd, BD. "That was a helluva an assignment. I worked real hard at that assignment," Price stated.

After a successful battalion command, Price was promoted to Colonel and assigned as the Commander of the 1st Simulation Group, 1st Brigade in 1997. His last assignment was as the Deputy Division

Commander. Price said that it was an honor to work with General Dalby.

Over a thirty year career he stated that his most memorable moment in his career was that he had always been the primary soldier, the go-to-guy. "I spent forty-five days as someone's assistant. For twenty-nine

years, ten months, and fifteen days, I was always the primary guy," Price said.

Looking back at his thirty year career he has no regrets. "It's a good time to leave. That's the beauty of the system. The old guys move on, so the young guys can move up."

His plans for retirement are not one of fishing and relaxing. "My wife, says I got to get a part-time job to keep me busy."

Valhalla Colonel Price.



Col Price is congratulated by MG Dalby.



Chaplain Duncan leads the Farewell Dinner in the invoca-

#### 1/289TH REGT/4TH BRIGADE

## **OPERATION CAJUN CASTLE**

#### BY MAJOR WAYNE MAROTTO

Camp Beauregard, LA- Amongst crawdads, piney woods, and Louisiana high humidity, Engineer Team One of the 1/289th, 4th Brigade conducted a Lanes Training Exercise from July 6 to July 12, 2002 at Camp Beauregard, Louisiana. Major Patrick Brooks was the Exercise Director as they laned the 205th Engineer BN (Combat Heavy) of the Louisiana National Guard.

The 1/289th Engineer Team performed duties as Observer Controllers/Trainers while the 205th conducted their METL tasks of Quartering Party, Conduct a Convoy, and Establish a Company Defense. "The 205th moved from a crawl to a walk on the Company defense, and a run on the Quartering Party." said Major

Brooks. The 1/289th Engineer team also had Opposing Forces (OPFOR) conducting raids during the day and night, conducting ambushes during the convoy and doing host nation checkpoints. The 1/289th added Civilians on the Battlefield (COBs) play this Annual Training for the 205th EN BN.

SPC Adam Burris of the 205th commented that this years Annual Training was "something everyone looked forward to because we learned alot from the OC's of the 75th DIV(TS) at last year's Annual Training." His favorite part of the Lanes Exercise was the convoy. "Every year it is different and I learn more each year. I am good at manning the radio on the convoy. And the convoy gives me a chance to fire rounds at the OPFOR."

SPC Burris recently reenlisted after being out of

the Army for six months. "One of the reasons I reenlisted was the prospect of going to Afghanistan," said SPC Burris. The 205th EN sister battalion, the 769th EN BN (Combat Heavy) was recently activated and mobilized.

The final AAR was held on July 11, 2002 with Major Brooks as the AAR facilitator. In attendance was, LTC Oneal, the Battalion Commander of the

205th EN along with his staff and company commanders. The group discussed the strengths and weaknesses of the unit during the Lanes exercise. During the AAR the 205th discussed, amongst many things, that the unit needed to bring more supplies for Annual Training and MILES equipment.

Major Brooks was the AAR facilitator. "I think the Lanes was successful. It was good

training for EN1. Conducting Lanes gets you down to the unit level and working with soldiers. Lanes training helps improve the units METL tasks in preparation for combat and the defense of our nation," Major Brooks stated.



SPC Jeff Williams, B Co (-), 205th EN mans his fighting position



A member of the 205th EN fires his SAW during an OPFOR attack

#### 2/291ST REGT (AV), THIRD BRIGADE

### CHINOOKS UP OVER FORT RILEY

#### BY CADET FELIPE BARRERA

The rolling, hot, grassy plains of Ft. Riley, Kansas was the site of this year's Battalion Level Air Assault Exercise (BATL-AAXE) 21-23 June

2002. Among the many units participating in this exercise were the 2<sup>nd</sup> BN 291<sup>st</sup> Regt (TS)(AV) out of Ft. Riley, and the 5<sup>th</sup> BN 159<sup>th</sup> (AV) out of Ft. Lewis, Washington.

The 75<sup>th</sup> Assistant Division Commander (ADC) BG Walter Zink, and 75<sup>th</sup> Div 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade commander COL Robert Townsend, took a tour of the training sites and visited with soldiers.

The purpose of the mission was to deploy a fully mission capable 16 ship medium lift aviation task force and all required support equipment



BG Zink inspects a Chinook helicopter at Fort Riley.

and personnel to ISB Marshall. Task Force (TF) 5-159 will occupy TAA Dragonmaster in order to facilitate 2-34th Infantry Division's offenive opera-

tions. In addition, they were to provide heavy lift aviation assets in support of 2-34th Infantry Division's offensive operations in order to re-establish the mock northlands pre-conflict border.

"BATL-AAXE provides aviation units an opportunity to conduct large scale and complex air assault

operations in a challenging environment. We tasked these aviators to move a large number of infantry and external loads to multiple targets over large distances. This is a tough mission-and they excelled," Townsend stated.

During the visit to soldiers out in the field, BG Zink and COL Townsend had an opportunity to recognize certain soldiers who had performed exceptional duties.

"When I hand these coins out, they go with responsibility. I expect people who receive these to have performed exceptional service," Zink stated to the soldiers.

SFC Tony Rucks, a logistics NCO, was one of four soldiers recognized by BG Zink.

BG Zink addressed him, "I expect people to maintain a certain level of expertise, and to pass that down to soldiers that you are responsible for. This level of knowledge becomes a mentorship." SFC Ruck replied, "Sir, Logistics is the lifeline to any Army operation."



The work horse of the 159th AV BN rests on the landing zone in Fort

# 75th Division's New PAO



The 75th DIV(TS) has a new Public Affairs Officer (PAO). Major Wayne Marotto was appointed the 75th DIV(TS) Public Affairs Officer during the August, 2002 drill. Marotto takes over for LTC Hal Emick, who was recently promoted and assumed a new assignment within the Army.

The PAO fulfills the Army's obligation to keep the American people and the Army informed and helps establish the conditions that lead to confidence in America's Army and its readiness to conduct operations in peacetime, conflict, and war. The PAO is responsible for advising the commander and his staff on the best ways to meet the command's information goals through the media. The PAO assists in the formulation and release of command messages and supervises the preparation, production, and distribution of printed and electronic PA information.

Major Marotto has been in the 75th DIV(TS) since April, 1994. He spent all of his tour with the 1/289th IN REGT (CS/CSS). His assignments with the 1/289th included Lanes OC/T, HHD Commander, S3 Assistant, S2 Security Mangager, Unit Historian, and he is the developer and creator of the

critically acclaimed 1/289th Battalion newsletter, *The Scorpion*.

He also wrote the history of the 75th Infantry Division from its activation in 1943 through its combat in the European Theater of Operations (ETO). This included its instrumental role in the Battle of the Bulge in December, 1944-January, 1945. Marotto's history ends with the 75th Infantry Divisions deactivation in 1945. This publication is part of the 75th Infantry Division Memorial at the SGM Macario Garcia USARC.

Major Marotto is a 1988 ROTC graduate of the University of Texas at Austin. Prior to serving with the 75th DIV(TS), Marotto was a Mechanized Infantry Platoon Leader, and Executive Officer. Marotto is a graduate of the Infantry Officer Basic Course, the Infantry Officer Advanced Course (Phase I), the QuarterMaster Officers'Advanced Course, 90A Multifunctional Logistics Course, and CAS3. He holds a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in History.

## The "T" in Golden Kastle is for Training

Lanes training exercise turns Indiana's Crane Depot into "KosoCrane"

By Major Luke Knittig, Regimental Operations Officer, 2-381st TSBn

Observer Controllers from the 2-381st

summer. This was as support for the 980<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion's 19 July - 02 August training deployment to Crane Depot for installation-related construction as part of Golden Kastle 02.

"It was a good AT. Our lanes training and task evaluations upgraded a priority unit's readiness and Alpha Co, 980th Engr Bn encounters a chemical strike access to 15 ammo

their construction upgraded the readiness of bunkers previously only reached by rail. a tier-one ammo depot," said MAJ Rich LaHue, team leader, 2-381st TSBn, Grand Prairie.

Engineer Battalion's four companies included tactical roadmarch, response to ground attack, reaction to chemical attack and conduct of operational decon with protective gear exchange. Additionally, each company conducted a reconnaissance in zone to find "KosoCranian" resources and assets of special use to engineers.

"I grew up in the Reserves as an NBC NCO so seeing chemical defense and decon get so much play gets me going," said SSG James Little, 2-381st TSBn observer controller.

Night lanes training stressed convoying Training Support Battalion transplanted under blackout conditions while incorporating scenarios and lessons from operations in a civilians on the battlefield scenario in which middle Europe to middle America earlier this units negotiated a "Kosocranian" checkpoint

> and requests for food and medical aid.

> 980th Engineer Battalion constructed a 250-soldier laundry and shower facility for future use at the installation's reserve training base camp. The unit also built roads for container truck

The Naval Surface Warfare Center at Crane Depot, IN, covers 100 square miles and Day lane tasks for each of 980th has 6.6 million square feet dedicated to ordnance storage. Its largest tenant is the Crane Army Ammunition Activity.





## Guard, Reserve tax deduction highlights relief bill

## Senator pushes for reimbursement of training expenses By Rick Maze

While other lawmakers were patting themselves on the back for the bipartisan Military Tax Fairness Act prepared by the Senate Finance Committee, one senator questioned what all the fuss was about.

A key part of the \$1 billion Foreign and Armed Services Tax Fairness Act of 2002 put together by the committee is the restoration of tax deductions for National Guard and reserve members who spend money out of their own pockets to attend drills and annual training.

Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., said the provision is aimed at making reserve duty more attractive.

Sen. Craig Thomas, R-Wyo., said he will support the bill, but he doesn't share the notion that this will be perceived by Guard and reserve members as a major improvement.

"Tax relief won't be useful to young reservists who may not even pay taxes because of their income level," Thomas said. "I don't think this is the best way to encourage people into the Guard. We ought to reimburse them for the expenses."

Baucus disagreed, calling the tax break a significant benefit.

Since 1986, National Guard and reserve members have been able to take deductions for expenses related to their military jobs only if those deductions exceed 2 percent of their adjusted gross income.

Most reservists, especially junior members, don't qualify, Baucus said. "Many reservists must travel away from home for weekend drill and wind up spending a substantial amount of money for overnight travel and lodging," he said. "In fact, for many of our younger, more junior reservists, the expenses exceed their takehome pay for that weekend."

Sen. Charles Grassley of Iowa, the finance committee's ranking Republican, also lauded inclusion of tax deductions for reservists as a major improvement. "Numerous Iowans have contacted me to emphasize that reservists often must subsidize their own military training," Grassley said. "This happens because 75 percent of the population, including numerous reservists, do not itemize on their tax returns." Grassley said, "I think it is worth noting that reservists have become an increasingly important part of our military regime over the last 10 to 12 years."

From 1945 to 1990, reservists were activated only four times, he said. "By contrast, since 1990, reservists have been involuntarily activated six times, in some cases related to peacekeeping and nation-building exercises in Haita, Bosnia and Kosovo, but also related to armed conflicts such as those with Iraq and the current military operation against terrorists," he said. Grassley said the bill's intent is to "provide incentives for our miltary personnel to continue their service to the country."

Thomas' suggestion that Guard and reserve members simply should be reimbursed for travel expenses would require further coordination. The finance comittee, which is responsible only for tax law, has no jurisdiction over reimbursement of expenses.

That falls under the oversight of the Senate Armed Services Committee, which has not proposed full reimbursement of travel and lodging expenses for reservists whose weekend or annual drills might require an overnight stay away from home.

The finance committee had hoped to pass the military tax bill Sept. 4, but the 21-member panel was unable to get 11 members present in the room to form the quorum needed to pass the bill. Baucus aides, confident the bill will pass, said they are uncertain when another attempt would be made to vote on the measure.

Aides said passage of the bill is a legislative priority, with the goal to have a compromise measure ready for President Bush's signature before Congress adjourns for the year. Providing travel deductions for reservists is the most expenseive of the various tax provisions in the bill, accounting for \$788 million of the esitmated \$1 billion cost over 10 years.

The bill also relaxes residency requirements for military and Foreign Service homeowners, makes death gratuity payments entirely tax free, expands combat-zone rules for delayed tax filing to include contingency operations and clarifies that military-subsidized child care is not a taxable benefit.

To pay for the increases, which Baucus admitted are modest, the bill would raise \$656 million by tightening rules on capital gains taxes for people who renounce their citizenship in order to avoid taxes and another \$341 million by extending through 2012 some fees charged for services by the Internal Revenue Service.

Baucus said taxing expatriates to cover the cost of tax breaks for U.S. service members "seems especially fitting."

--Excerpted from the **Army Times**, Sept. 23, 2002

## Study should be ready for 2003 budget proposal

By Vince Crawley

**Long Beach, Calif.** -- Defense leaders are studying an overhaul of the reserves, possibly creating a wide range of service options depending on different missions and job expertise.

For example, some reservists may wish to serve on a nearly full-time basis to take part in overseas deployments. But technical experts in highly accomplished civilian fields may be asked to serve only a few days each year or take part in a one-year "military sabbatical".

David S.C. Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, described the ongoing study Sept. 9 at the annual convention of the National Guard Association of the United States.

In addition to personnel issues, the study looks at what missions the reserves should perform in a post-Cold War world. While no definitive findings have been made, Chu said it is his opinion that Reserve and National Guard units should seek out specialized missions rather than simply "mirror" activeduty forces.

"The quickest route to relevance is, 'How can you do things the active forces can't?'" Chu told reporters.

The reserve study is expected to be finished in time to influence the next Defense Department budget proposal, to be submitted in February 2003.

Currently, reserve and National Guard service is based on an often-outdated formula of 39 drill days per year -- typically one weekend per month and two weeks each year, Chu said.

Unites often follow a Cold War model in which reserve combat forces were patterned on their active-duty counterparts and designated to deploy en masse overseas in the event of a conventional war.

Today, about 865,000 service members are in National Guard or reserve units, augmenting an active-duty force of 1.4 million. Since the global war on terrorism began a year ago, the Defense Department has kept 80,000 reservists and Guard members called to active duty.

Many have been volunteers, but the Air Force in particular has relied on involuntary call-ups, sometimes exceeding the Pentagon's goal of no more than one year of involuntary service.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld resisted efforts to boost the size of the active-duty force, which would ease pressure on the reserves. Instead, he insisted the services use their uniformed personnel more meaningfully while placing civilians in jobs where military skills aren't needed.

#### Proud to serve

Reserve deployments don't necessarily bust morale, said retired Army Maj. Gen. Richard Alexander, executive director of the National Guard Association. "The more the Guard is used in relevant, meaningful missions, the more it enhances retention," he noted.

The active-duty forces have seen a similar phenomenon. While Washington spent much of the 1990s bickering over a string of peacekeeping deployments, overseas units reported record re-enlistments among troops who took part in the missions.

More recently, reserve units have taken over from active-duty counterparts in places such as Bosnia and the Sinai.

Alexander said he wouldn't want to see the Guard specialize in civil peacekeeping at the expense of losing its combat relevance.

If Guard units start adopting a different command structure, they might risk being sidelined "based on our inability to participate."

#### **New missions**

Chu said new missions are emerging in the 21st century, with "none more important, since Sept. 11, than defending the homeland. The reserves and Guard...can play a much larger role" in homeland defense.

Chu envisions a "continuum" of service, encompassing a few days each year to nearly full-time active-duty service.

This would let the Defense Department recruit top leaders in technical fields, who might need to wear a uniform only a couple of times a year, but who could be doing valuable work much more frequently, he said.

For example, someone already working in the information-technology industry simply might have to "turn to a different workstation" to perform military duties, Chu said.

Modern technology means that many specialists no longer need to be based in the theater of combat. he said.

And some individuals might be willing to serve "intermittently," Chu said. "Maybe one year out of every seven, a sabbatical."

Another area where reserve units could excel is in conducting battlefield experiments, Chu said.

With the pace of operations in recent years, active-duty units often are severely disrupted when pulled out of regular duties to experiment with new concepts.

"This is an excellent opportunity" for reserve units to make a lasting contribution, Chu said, by becoming "the backbone of experimentation."

Chu said the Pentagon likely will ask Congress for legislative changes once the new reserve study is completed.

Such changes may include making pay and benefits more similar, so service members find it easier to move back and forth between active and reserve duty.

This is your newsletter and we want your stories. All Brigades, Battalions, Family Support Groups, and soldiers are encouraged to send your stories to the Division PAO at Carl.Marotto@USARC-EMH2.ARMY.MIL or to PAO, 75th DIV(TS) 1850 Old Spanish Trail, Houston, TX 77054-2025

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